Liebe Eltern, dear parents,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer, wherever you happen to be at the moment.

As the preparations for the next year are going into high gear, we are looking back to the last year to find ways to improve and, where possible, extend our programming. There are three aspects of our school life that have been the highlights of the past school year for me.

A. Academic achievement

The continuing academic achievement of our exam classes is something to be proud of. All of our students who have stood the A1, A2, B1 and B2/C1 exams have successfully passed them.

This is not a small feat as our students only spend two hours and fifteen minutes per week in the classroom. The exam success is built not only on the hard work they do during the exam year, but on consecutive years of structured and well-thought out classes.

Every year is a basis for the following one. This is the reason why we have moved away from the percentage based first and end of year reports to more descriptive ones.
They serve the purpose of communicating better to students where they are with regards to their aspired level in German. We are hoping to still streamline and connect better the contents taught in all years, so that students always have a good sense of where they are at in their educational journey.

We have also noticed that there is a need for more effective communication with parents regarding the students’ progress and how better to support their learning. We are hoping to have an info session at the beginning of the year and mid term parent-teacher meeting to better involve parents into their children’s learning.

B. Connecting students

Another thing that stands out for me is the need to connect our students better with youth and children who have the same everyday experiences as them. Our cooperation with Victoria German School has brought forth a productive letter exchange between two second grade DaZ classes. We are hoping to expand on this in the coming year, and thus give our students more opportunities to connect with youth and children who have the same everyday experiences. Last year, we were not successful in putting on a Mini German Olympics event with the Surrey German School, but we are hopeful that this will take place in 2018/2019.
C. Social events

Apart from having our students successfully complete their exams, the area of school life that gives me most joy are the social events. It is through these occasions, either small, regular ones like bi/weekly library hours to big ones like Laternenfest, Christmas Party, Fasching, or End of Year Celebration that our school generates a sense of community, and “glues” our students together. Joyful and happy mayhem is what we really want them to associate German School with: learning, yes, but also fun and new friends. We will be working on continuing to offer these events with the help of our volunteers, and to create more social events for our Wednesday classes too.
New starting times

Most of you must wander why there has been a sudden change in the starting time at our school. This has been implemented by the Rentals Department of the VSB in order to give Prince of Wales’ teachers more time to wrap up their days at a particular day.

Thank you

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to:

- all the teachers and teaching assistants for their dedication and hard work, and for making this past year into a successful one,
- the parents for the support they gave and keep giving at home,
- the Board for all their guidance, support and trust in the past two years. Our school is, as you know, a parent organization, run by parents who are elected at the annual AGM. The success of the school depends on parents with various talents to come together, discuss, and make decisions about the future of the school. Our AGM is on September 18th. Save the date and join us.
- And, last but not least, huge thanks to our school’s outgoing administrator, Kirsten Friedrichs. With her knowledge and organizational skills, she has been a pillar for me in the past two years. Ich werde Dich vermissen, Kirsten!
In Kirsten’s stead, we are welcoming Susanne Freitag. Welcome to the team! I would like to wish you all a great rest of the summer. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at info@vwgs.org.

Lidija Bakovic
Schulleiterin/Principal

Time to say goodbye

There comes a time when we must say goodbye and alas this is my time as Administrator at the Vancouver Westside German School.

I must really say for the past four years I have enjoyed being part of the German school community. I am truly grateful to so many people, for without their help, patience, and support I would not have been able to carry out my duties to the full.

There are too many to mention but I do have to mention a few and to the rest of you A BIG SPECIAL THANKS.
To the former principals Christine, for starting me off on the right path and of course her successor Lidija for being such a great coworker. To the board, for their professional courtesy and guidance at all times. I would have been lost without their guidance, support, and advice. To the various teachers for their kindness and support. To the many parents, volunteers, and community members whom I have dealt with on behalf of the Vancouver Westside German School over the years.

Last but not least, to all our past and present members. The Vancouver Westside German School is a fantastic and active opportunity to keep German alive in your children’s lives. I would encourage all parents at some stage to join and be a part of it. I have made great friends and it’s that friendship that made my job so easy, with teamwork and communication as the secret to our success. I shall miss the School but I know it will continue its success.

Finally, a warm welcome to my successor, Susanne Freitag. I hope all of you will give her the same support and guidance as I received.

Kirsten Friedrichs
School Administrator

Liebe Eltern, liebe Schüler! Dear Parents and Students!

Another successful year at our German school has come to an end with many memorable events. The generous baking of so many parents at our Open House and our successful reading campaign in support of SOS Kinderdorf are just a few that come to mind. My own daughter graduated this year after successfully earning her C1 certification. With two daughters now graduated from the school, I will be bidding farewell myself to my time at the school. It has been an enriching and very rewarding five years for me as a Board Member at the Vancouver Westside German School.

At next year’s Annual General Meeting, which this time will take place on the first day of school on September 18th, 2018, we will be looking for new parents to join the Board. If you are a parent with an interest in your children’s heritage language education and would like to bring your expertise and energy to support the Board, please don’t hesitate to contact us at info@vwgs.com.

Wishing you the very best for the summer holidays and looking forward to seeing you in September!

Meike Wernicke
President,
Vancouver Westside German School
Important upcoming dates

**September 11, 5 - 6pm:**
Info session with the teachers for Junior Classes

**September 12, 5 - 6pm:**
Info session with the teachers for Senior Classes

**September 18, 4:15pm:**
School Start Junior Classes (Tuesday)

**September 18, 4:15pm - 5:15pm:**
Workshop with Anne Rimrott: How to successfully raise bi/multilingual children

**September 18, 5:15pm:**
AGM

**September 19, 4:30pm:**
School Start Senior Classes (Wednesday)

Events from the German community

**Deutsche Kindergruppe - Kids' Playgroup**

This is an open playgroup for German speaking kids, ages 0-6. They meet every Monday (except during holidays) at St. Mark’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1573 E. 18th Avenue, Vancouver, from 9:30am to 12:30pm. No registration necessary. Contact: Andrea Mechler.

Useful links

Germany is the most important non-English speaking country to study in:


Germany also is the most attractive country in Europe to study in:


Danke für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!